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the almost total lack of any comparative physiological and histological statements. The absence of the former may be in part justified by the disorganized condition that the science of comparative physiology is still in, but no such excuse can be urged for comparative histology, which has already received good treatment in several text-books.

To a foreigner the text seems generally free from typographical errors, though occasional misprints, as Crincidi for Crinoidi (p. 217), are to be noticed. The text justifies a much better letterpress, and it is to be regretted that so many of the figures are spoiled by poor printing. In the map illustrating the zoögeographic regions (p. 72) the areas designated by different kinds of shading are scarcely to be recognized, and while many well-known islands have apparently sunk below the surface, numerous small archipelagoes of printer's ink have made their appearance in unexpected quarters. On the whole, the book deserves hearty commendation and ought to exert a stimulating influence on the study of zoölogy in Italy.

G. H. P.

**Jordan's Manual of Vertebrates.**—An eighth edition of this work is just issued from the press of A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago. In it the nomenclature is brought to date, that of the fishes in an appendix, that of reptiles and birds by changes in the plates, and that of the mammals by a rewriting of the text. In the latter group special assistance has been given by Mr. T. S. Palmer of Washington, and in the reptiles by Dr. Leonhard Stejneger and others.

The volume now contains condensed descriptions of 1149 species of vertebrate animals native to the northeastern United States and arranged in 610 genera. Since the first edition in 1876 great changes have taken place in the nomenclature of these animals, not half the species retaining the scientific name then recognized.

All these changes have been, however, in the direction of stability of nomenclature, and the specific names in twenty-nine cases out of thirty are now permanently fixed by the law of priority.

Generic names must always vary with different views of convenience in the valuation of groups. Unfortunately they still fluctuate through variations in the methods employed in the restriction of the collective groups of the older authors.

The book is well printed, and the binding has improved with each consecutive edition.